

Memphis Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Open Public Meeting

September 14, 2011

Members Present: Chairman, Dr. Stephen Tower; Secretary, Jeanne Chancellor; John Cox, board member; Dr. Jen Clay, board member; Don Siemer, board member; Chelton Beamon, Shelter Operations Manager, Dr. LaSona Hall, Deputy Director Public Services and Neighborhoods; Jill Madajczyk, City Attorney' Office.

Chairman Dr. Stephen Tower called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the August 2011 meeting were presented for approval. Dr. Jen Clay made the motion to approve, seconded by Don Siemer. The minutes passed unanimously.

Figures for the year to date were presented. There have been 1233 adoptions, 55 return to owner animals and 531 transfers to rescue groups. Adoptions are up 14%.

Don Siemer asked about what checks are done on the rescue groups in the Pet Placement Partner Program. He is concerned about rescue groups not being checked on. Are health department checks done? Is it possible that animals are going to hoarders? Don Siemer would like to come up with reasonable criteria for checking on rescues.

The spay neuter vouchers provided by the Petco grant were discussed.

62 vouchers have been redeemed to date.

28 surgeries have been scheduled.

Of the scheduled surgeries 1 has not shown up for appointment.

There are 200 vouchers to be given out.

The next distribution will be Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, at the Health and Wellness Fair for city workers at the Hickory Hill Community Center.

The spay/neuter voucher program is considered a success. There are people waiting before the distribution, and the vouchers are given out in 30 minutes or less.

Personnel update:

There are 17/18 animal control officers with one vacancy.

There are 11 shelter techs with one vacancy.

There is one senior shelter tech.

Two new positions for one shelter tech and one animal control officer have been added by the city and are ready to be posted. In the last meeting a motion was passed that no person with felony convictions be hired as an animal control officer.

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, will be the next off-site adoption event at the Wellness and Health Fair for city employees.

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, will be the next volunteer orientation class. It will be held 10 – 12 at the shelter.

Don Siemer asked to have a breakdown on the costs/fees associated with the adoption of pets from the shelter.

The new shelter is about 60 days out from being ready for occupancy. The biggest challenge right now is working down the punch list and final inspections. There is still work to be done in the installing of computers/phones. As soon as the user occupancy certificate is issued work can be done towards the physical move.

More detailed plans about executing the move will be available at the next meeting.

Jill updated us on legal matters concerning the shelter.

Livestock has been required to be auctioned by the city as it has been considered personal property of the city. It is being looked at to modify the ordinance to have livestock adoptable/available to rescue as dogs and cats are. It traditionally has cost more to house the livestock that is ever realized at auction, and the auction process causes the animals to remain in city custody a long time.

It is being looked at to include dog fighting in the nuisance ordinances. This would help that in declaring property as a nuisance helps the city take steps to acquire the property. Landlords would be more careful about what goes on at their rental properties. Backyard dog fighting is the prevalent means of dog fighting in the city.

It is also being considered to make changes to the impound fees for animals that are confiscated/held for court cases. Owner may be required to pre pay the fees for boarding for 15 or 30 days. These fees would have to be kept paid in advance. Failure to pay these fees could result in euthanasia of the animal/animals regardless of the status of the court case. The cost of housing these animals would help to be defrayed by this ordinance.

A motion was made by John Cox to keep the current schedule of work sessions and a once a quarter public meeting. The motion was seconded by Don Siemer. The motion passed unanimously. December 14<sup>th</sup> will be the next open meeting. The website needs to be updated to reflect this information.

Changing to a new microchip company was discussed. Dr. Tower indicated that are companies that offer a month of health insurance for the pet when it is chipped with a chip other than Home Again which is the chip used now. Any chip changed to would be able to be read with a universal scanner.

Don Siemer suggested that microchips be looked at as a way of city licensing. Pet Data has a system of using chips for licensing and does all the record keeping through their software system. This may be a goal after the feasibility is studied.

Dead Animal Pick-up was discussed. There is no record keeping as to where and what animals is picked up now so pet owners cannot find out if their pet was picked up dead. The need for records of location and records of animals picked up was discussed. Animals picked up need to be scanned for chips so owners can be contacted. Animals with collars/tags need to be recorded so owners can be contacted. Public works tells people the shelter has the collars removed from deceased pets, but that is not the case. There needs to be a better system for recording animals picked up deceased. Public works will be contacted to see what can be done.

The use of Qualcomm gps systems was discussed. Dispatching could be tracked on a screen with where the officers are exactly real time. The information could be called up at a later date for where and when a call was made. The exact location/street number would be available and how much time was spent on the call. The city has 3 new vans for the animal control officers with another funded for 2012.

Two city council members, Janice Fullilove and Kemp Conrad, came to the shelter and rode with an officer for the day to experience what the officers' experience.

Dr. Jen Clay brought up marketing ideas. The shelter needs some branding for identity. This branding would include a logo for the shelter which would help with identity. Pr with message points about the shelter would be helped by the branding.

Don Siemer brought up having a contest for the logo. The logo would tell the story of what the shelter does.

John Cox brought up looking at other food options for the shelter. In the past Science Diet was used. The company just charged for the shipping and provided a sample bag for all adopters. It was also suggested that other items used by the shelter might be available for discounted cost such as the meds/vaccinations used in the clinic.

Other ideas for marketing/other options for funding were discussed: grants available for additional staffing positions, donation of vehicles through companies such as Ford Motors, computers through foundations such as the Bill Gates foundation, medicines, veterinarian supplies and equipment, food both for shelter animals and pet retention programs.

The promotion of special events and offsite adoption events was discussed. Yappy Hour will be hosted every Thursday at the shelter by Friends of the Memphis Animal Shelter. Special fees and refreshments are provided.

Don Siemer brought up the possibility of having special classes for people who end up in court because of their animals. The classes would cover the aspects of responsible animal ownership. This would not be hard to implement once in the new shelter with the large meeting room.

The meeting was opened to the public.

Attached is a list of the public present and the concerns listed on the cards.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Chancellor, Secretary